

WDFW Commission Meeting

Director's Report

April 11, 2014



**DIRECTOR PHIL ANDERSON
& DEPUTY DIRECTOR JOE STOHR**

Budget – Federal Funding Status



WDFW - Federal Funding Sources

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- Cooperative Endangered Species Fund
- State Wildlife Grants Partners for Fish and Wildlife
- North American
- Pittman Robertson/Dingell Johnson
- Land and Water Conservation Fund

Environmental Protection Agency

- National Estuary Program
- Puget Sound Geographic Program

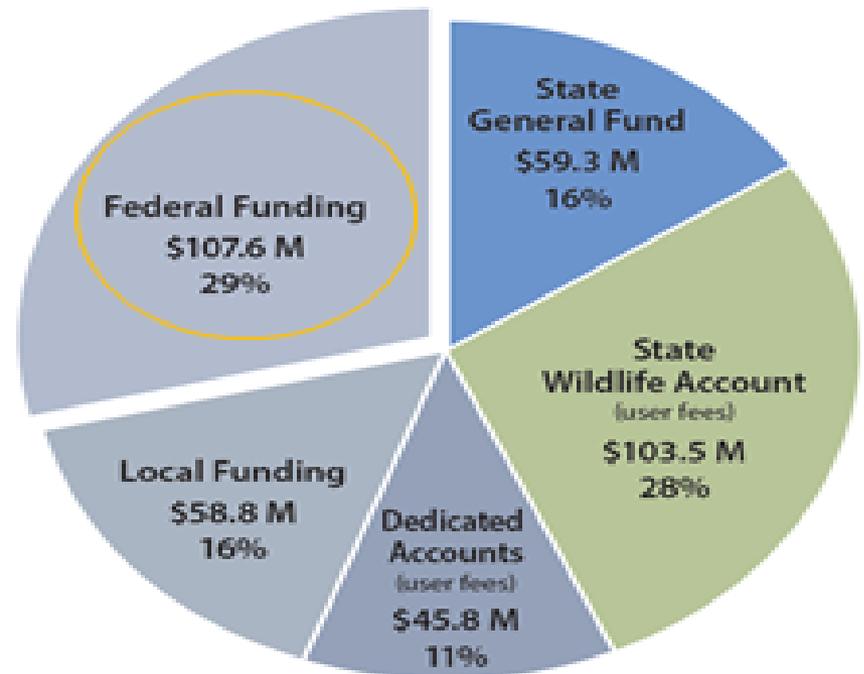
Bonneville Power Administration

- Columbia Basin Mitigation

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

- Mitchell Act
- Pacific Salmon Treaty
- Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds
- Joint Enforcement Account
- Marine Mammal: Prescott Grants

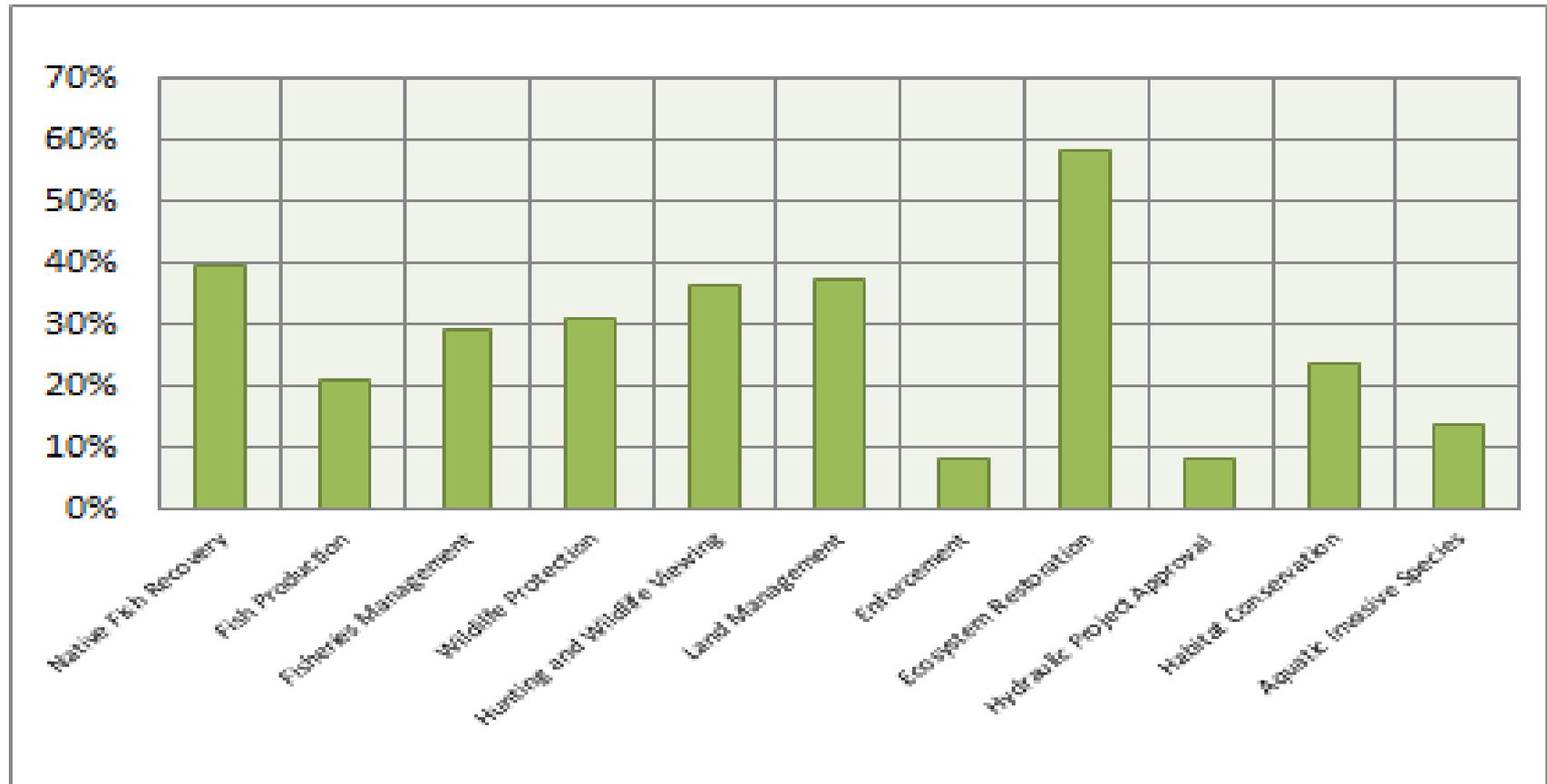
WDFW Operating Budget 2013-15



Budget – Federal Funding Status



Percent of Federal Funding by WDFW Activities



Budget – Federal Funding Status



WDFW Federal Priority Initiatives

- **Maintain WDFW federal funding levels at FFY2012 or better**
- **Salmon conservation and fisheries management (NOAA)**
 - Restore and Stabilize Funding
- **Yakima Basin Integrated Plan (BOR)**
 - Funding and Authorization Language
- **Puget Sound Nearshore and Estuary Restoration Project (USACE)**
 - USACE approval
 - Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) Authorization/Appropriation
- **Puget Sound and Marine Nearshore Grant Program (EPA)**
- **Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation Act**
 - Reauthorization
- **Lands and Water Conservation Fund**
 - Fully fund and reauthorized

Budget – Federal Funding Status



Federal Budget Highlights

- “Sequester Cuts” removed for federal Budget for 2014 and 2015 – lowers (but does not eliminate) impacts
- USFWS Pittman Robertson funding continues to increase
- New 5-yr Farm Bill Passed
 - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) funding
 - Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP)
 - Voluntary Access Program/Habitat Improvement Program (VAP/HIP)

Budget – Federal Funding Status



Budget Reductions to WDFW

- **FFY 2013**

- Mitchell Act
 - -6% in operation/facilities
- Marine Mammal Prescott Grants - \$0
 - \$0 to WA state - Stranding Response
- Partners for Fish and Wildlife
 - -6% to funding for Regional Fisheries Enhancement Groups
- PCSRF
 - -\$2M to WA state

- **FFY 2014**

- Mitchell Act
 - *Added -5% in operations and facility*
 - *~-\$5M Reform funding*
- Pacific Salmon Commission
 - *Carry forward/backfill exhausted*
- Joint Enforcement Account
 - *WA allocation reduced*
- Puget Sound Geographic Funds
 - *~-\$5M - may impact Marine /Nearshore Projects*

Budget – Federal Funding Status



- Sent funding request letter to congressional delegation last month and received strong support.
- Asked for 1)\$40.6M Salmon Mgmt. Activities and \$65M for Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds
- Generated letters from:
 - Kilmer to House Appropriation Committee
 - Larsen to House Appropriation Committee
 - Adoption of our request levels from numerous NW delegates
 - Cantwell leading effort with Senate Appropriation Committee
 - Governor Inslee and OR, CA, ID governors submitted a joint request
 - NWIFC submitted congressional testimony to support our request

Budget – Supplemental Session



- **Outcome:**
 - Short session that ended on time – elections coming
 - Very successful with operating budget (see Owen Rowe's 3/14/14 memo for details)
 - No capital budget- 1st time in almost 20 years
 - We have a strong team building lots of legislative support

Budget – Looking Forward



- Next legislature with many of the same dynamics:
 - Same leaders
 - Split between parties
 - Dominated by education funding
 - Very little state general fund availability
- Legislature unlikely to backfill any federal cuts and will be attentive to any new federal funds
- Need to quickly define impacted activities from federal budget cuts so we can start focused problem solving

LEAN – Building Effective Processes



- Created the LTO about a year ago
- Department level projects include:
 - DFW/DOT collaboration to improve fish barrier removal
 - Ongoing work to improve agency hiring processes
 - Improve management of land related information across programs

Conduct bimonthly Lean training

Program level projects include:

- Licensing Division – Discover Pass printing
- IT Division – Building network cables
- Fish Program – Paperless contract filing

Agency Challenges – North of Falcon



- State – Tribal Process
- Our Team
- Stakeholders
- Puget Sound
- Ocean
- Grays Harbor / Willapa Bay
- Columbia River

Agency Challenges – Puget Sound Steelhead



- WFC 60 Day Notice of Intent to Sue (April 7)
- Letter to WFC April 4 – Withhold Releases
- Law Suit filed
- Revised HGP's Submitted
- Preliminary Injunction Possible
- Discussions with Plaintiffs Ongoing
- Tribal Coordination/Consultation Ongoing

Agency Challenges- Puget Sound Steelhead

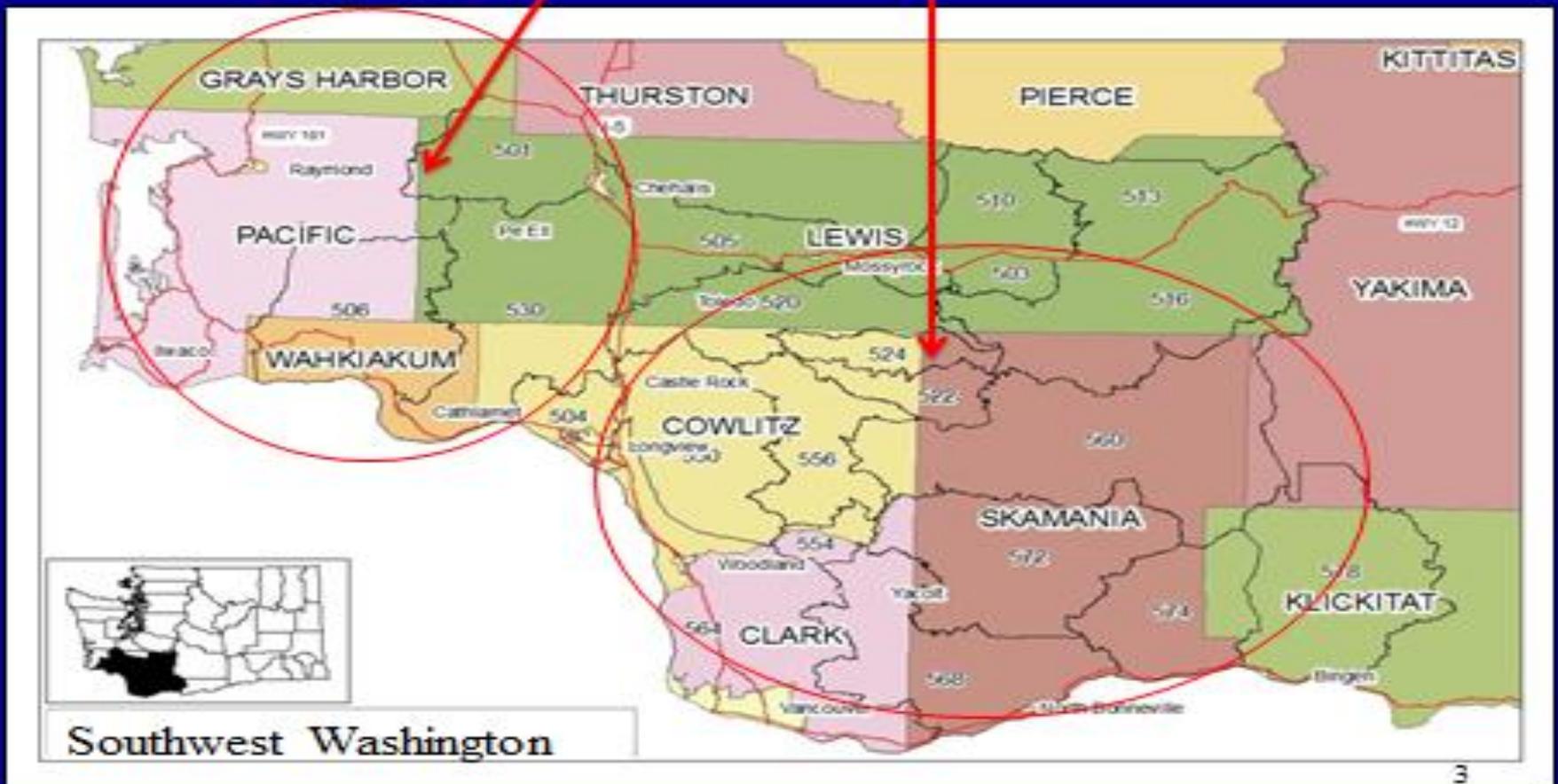


Releases at Risk

- Nooksack 150K
- Skagit 230K
- Stilliquamish 130K
- Snohomish 330K
- Green 70K
- Dungeness 10K

Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease

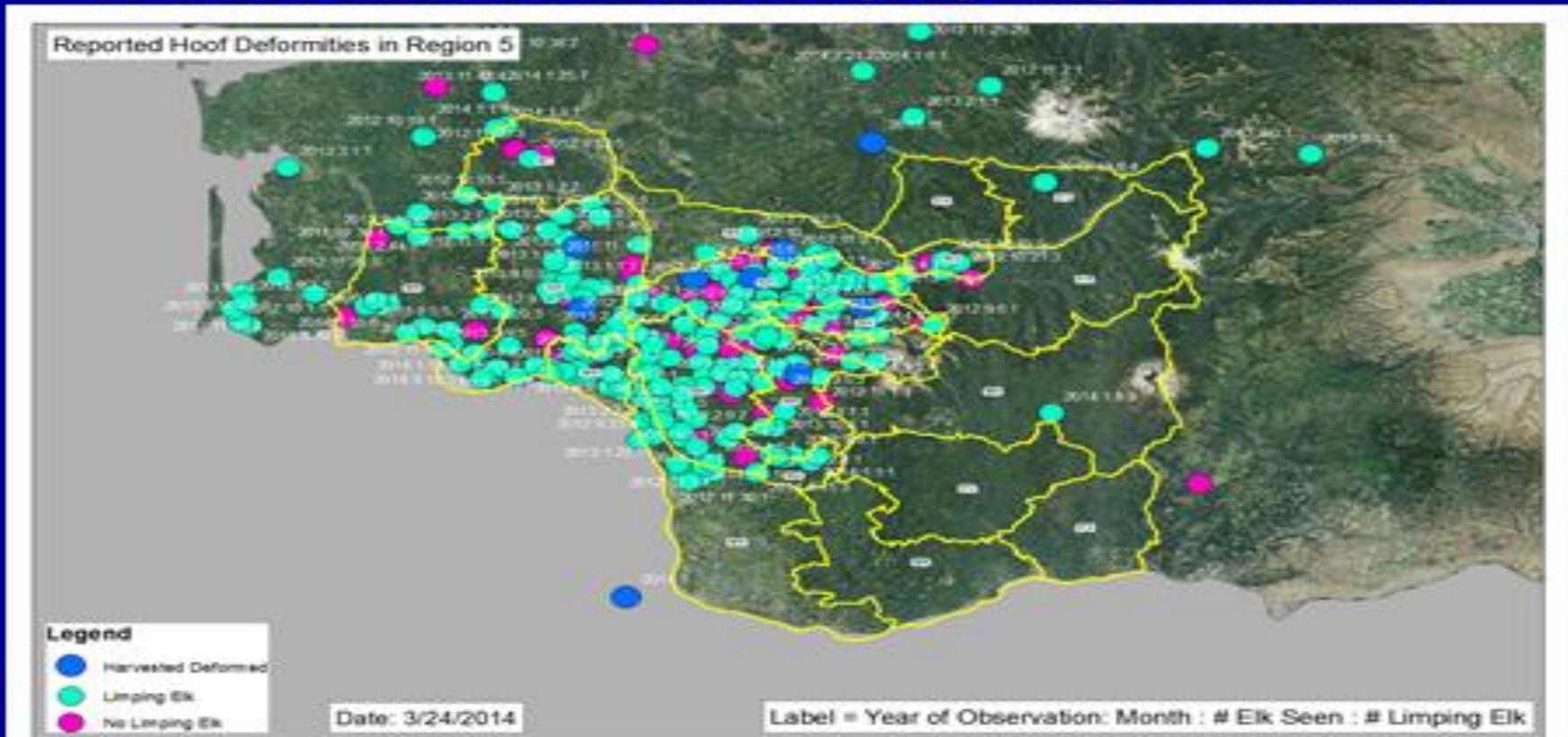
Willapa Hills and MSH Elk Herds



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease



Online Hoof Disease Reporting Form
Helps WDFW better understand the distribution and observations of hoof disease by reporting observations



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease



Specialized Microbiology

- **Treponema sp. detected in diseased samples from multiple collections in three independent labs**
- **Showing that bacteria in the genus Treponema are present in affected hooves of elk with the disease**
- **Additional testing in both diseased and non-diseased hooves to confirm association of Treponema bacteria with hoof disease**
- **Additional confirmation of the presence of Treponema sp. in the diseased hooves is being pursued via immunohistochemistry of the observed spirochetes at UC Davis**

Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease



Specialized Microbiology

- Work on the samples collected in January 2014 is ongoing to confirm the association between presence of *Treponema* and diseased hooves
- *Treponema* are known to be highly associated with hoof disease in both cattle and sheep
 - The infection in sheep results in hoof abnormalities that are similar to the elk hoof disease
 - The rapid appearance and spread of the disease in elk is similar to the situation when *Treponema* first appeared in cattle in the United States in the early 1990s

Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease

Advisory Groups

- **Hoof Disease Technical Advisory Group**
(WDFW, CSU, WSU, WDOH, ODFW, WSDA local private large animal vets)
 - composed of veterinarians and researchers to guide the diagnostic effort, discuss research and management questions, and advise on disease control options
- **Hoof Disease Public Working Group**
 - discuss research and management questions and options, share information, and communicate with the public

Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Rot



Next Steps

- Once HD in a herd & landscape, extremely difficult to eliminate
- The challenge is to manage the disease
- Management Options and Research Questions
 - Reduce density, containment, treatment, let disease run its course, prevalence/distribution, survival, etc.



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Rot



Next Steps

- In process of taking all HDPWG, HDTAG, and WDFW staff input into consideration to develop management approach



Agency Challenges



Wanapum Dam



Pier No. 4: The fracture was found below the water level on the fourth spillway pier from the left in this photo.

Columbia River Affected Dams



Agency Challenges – Wanapum Dam



- **Current Status:**
 - 1” wide by 65’ long crack in spillway 4, cause under investigation
 - Pool level in Wanapum lowered to reduce stress on dam
 - Pool level in upstream Rock Island dam lowered to accommodate rivers system storage needs
 - Water levels are expected to be down for months
 - Permitting Challenges for Agriculture Interests

Agency Challenges – Wanapum Dam



- Exposed lands causing safety and cultural resource theft problems



Agency Challenge – Wanapum Dam



- **Fish Passage**

- Low water levels dewater fish ladders for returning salmon at both Wanapum and Rock Island, water pumping at the top of ladders and trap and truck being explored

Irrigation Concerns

- About 12 irrigators on Wanapum pool and up to 100 on Rock Island pool are at risk of having diversions “stranded” just as water is necessary for orchards, etc.

River Access

- No river access for recreation or other uses on Wanapum. River access can only occur at one site on Rock Island pool.

Prairie Ecosystem Loss - Mazama Pocket Gopher Listing



- Loss or degradation of prairies is the primary threat to gopher subspecies
- WDFW has been working with the USFWS for over a decade on protection and recovery
- On May 9th the USFWS increased ESA related protection by listing four subspecies (Olympia, Roy, Tenino, Yelm) as threatened
- Also designated 1,607 acres in Thurston County as critical habitat – significantly less than the 9,234 acres proposed

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Prairie Ecosystem Loss – Mazama Pocket Gopher Listing



- Also included a 4(d) rule to promote maintenance or restoration of open habitat including:
 - Ag and ranch land activities (grazing and depth of planting)
 - Airport maintenance
 - Noxious weed and invasive plant controls
 - Single family residential landowner parcels (size of building foundations, dog kennels, etc.)
- WDFW and USFW discussing next steps including:
 - Designing a prairie reserve for landscape level conservation
 - WDFW role in Habitat Conservation Plan
 - Outreach and communications regarding the listing

Oso Landslide – WDFW Response and Support



Enforcement:

Captain Alan Myers
Captain Dan Brinson
Lieutenant Dan O'Hagan
Sergeant Jennifer Maurstad
Sergeant Danyl Klump
Sergeant Eric Anderson
Sergeant Phil Johnson
Officer Justin Maschhoff
Officer Jeff Summit
Officer Chris Moszeter
Officer Nick Jorg
Officer Matt Jewett
Officer David Hughes
Officer Brandon Chamberlin
Officer Carly Peters

Officer Mike McQuoid
Officer Corey Peterson
Officer James Sympson
Officer Graham Grant
Officer Ryan Valentine
Officer John Ludwig
Officer Bill Lantiegne

Wildlife:

John Evans
Derek Hacker
Travis Haring
Dave Heimer
Les Holcomb
Russ Nunez
Tom Wampler

Oso Landslide – WDFW Response and Support



Fish Program:

Ed Eleazer
Travis Haring
Will Irwin
Matthew McGregor
Scott Meechan
Peter Verney
David Whitmer
Jennifer Whitney

CAMP:

Ken Bergman
Mark Draght
John Frost
Jeff Hughes
Sherri Keller
Kip Pigott
Tom Wortman
William Yarborough

Habitat Program:

Doug Hennick
Kirk Lakey

Oso Landslide – WDFW Response and Support



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Oso Landslide – WDFW Response and Support



Wolf Update



- Wolf Meets Domestic Dog = Problem
- Comments on USFWS Proposal to Delist Updates
Information Collected by Department
- Advisory Group – Updates to Lethal Removal
Protocol
- Scientists Compare Actual to Projected Growth
- Research Programs Discussed
- Establishing Carcass Disposal Site

Lowland Lakes Trout Opener



- Opening Day is Saturday, April 26th
- WDFW planting nearly 16.5 million trout and kokanee in hundreds of lake across the state
 - 2.3 million catchables
 - 115,000 jumbo weighing up to 11 pounds
 - More than 50,000 triploid trout averaging 1.5 lbs each
 - If catchables were laid end to end – stretch from Westport to Spokane!

Crews began stocking in March and will continue through June
FW resident/adult = \$29.50, 15 yr. olds = \$8.05, Seniors = \$7.50

Stocking details by county and lake at:

wdfw.wa.gov/fishing/plants/statewide/

Region 5 – Vancouver Office Move



- **Progress to date:**
 - Obtained the last of needed funding with Supplemental Budget
 - Worked with DES and OFM to select a final proposer who will design and build a new facility for the move this biennium
 - Currently negotiating final price and design
 - Expect negotiations to be complete in 2 – 3 months
 - Final proposer is MJR and location of the new facility will be at (awaiting OFM advice on how much to reveal)

Questions/Discussion



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Rot



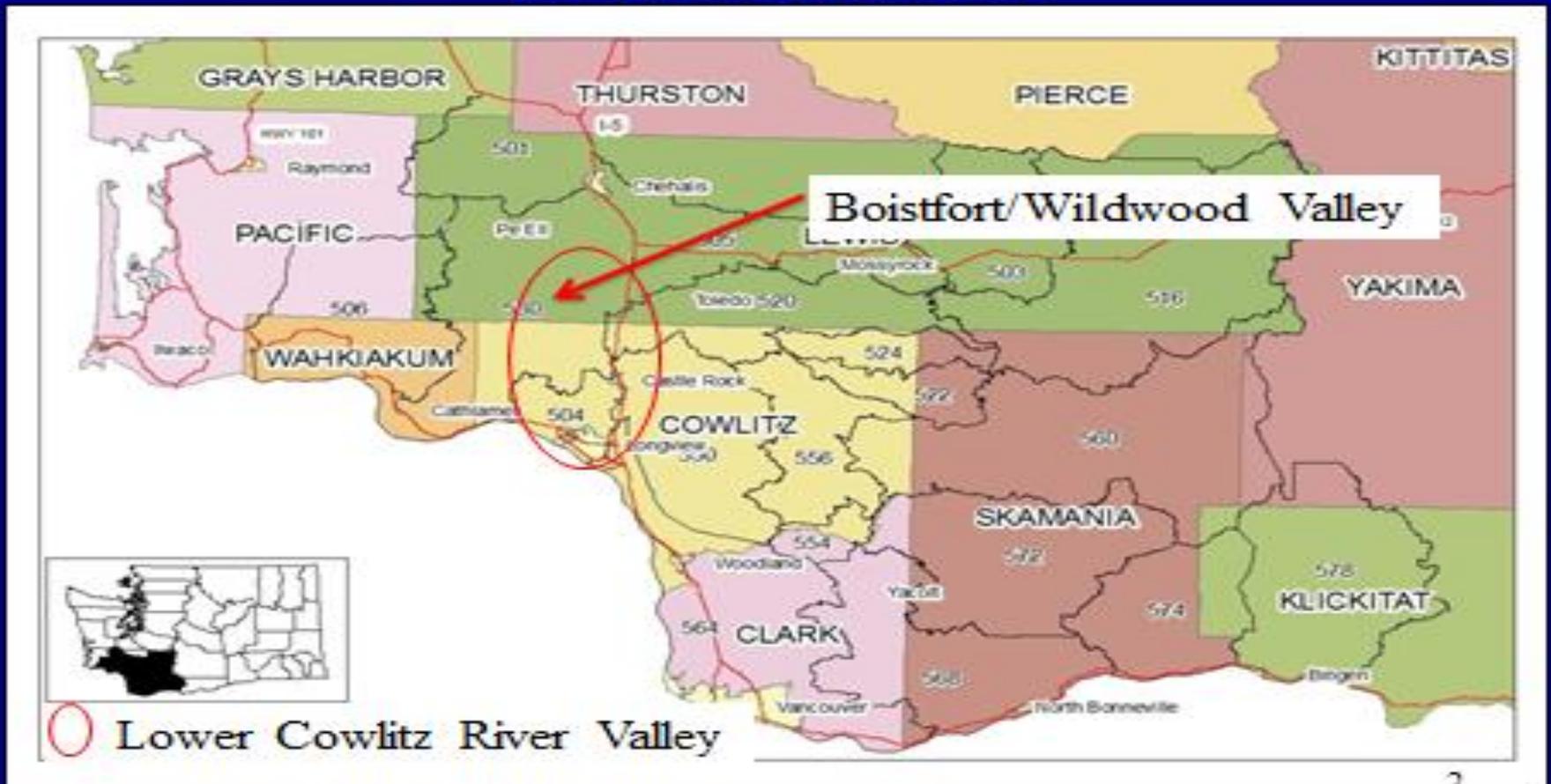
2009 Collection: Gross Hoof Lesions

Normal



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease

Initial Reports



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease

Sampling and Testing

- **Gross necropsy**
- **Radiology**
- **Histopathology** – Disease limited to hooves: Other tissues, including meat, are not affected
- **Virology** – lesions similar – were all negative
- **Toxicology** (=trace minerals) – low selenium and copper, as expected
- **Bacteriology**
- **Parasitology**
- **Serology**
- **Molecular Diagnostics**



Agency Challenges – Elk Hoof Disease



Specialized Microbiology

Current diagnostic efforts are focused on specialized bacteriology testing to rule out known infectious hoof disease organisms

Including bacterium in:

- *Treponema* sp. – to date Spirochete detection associated with this species
- *Dichelobacter nodosus*
- *Fusobacterium necrophorum*
- *Gugenheimia bovis*

Oso Landslide – WDFW Response and Support



- Nearly 50 Fish and Wildlife Staff Engaged
- Department Equipment / Marsh Masters
- Extreme Conditions